

Automatic Fire Sprinkler System Contractors and Journeymen Council - Meeting Minutes

Meeting summaries are tentative until accepted by the council at a subsequent meeting.

Wednesday March 24, 2010, 10 a.m. to noon, Room 3C, Thompson Commerce Center, 201 West Washington Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin

Council Attendance: Jeff Batemen - Present; Dan Driebel - P; Greg Hintz - P; Chris Schoenbeck - P; Jim Smith - Excused

Department of Safety and Professional Services Staff: Lori Ann Curley, Dan Meneguín, Jim Quast

Visitors: Annie Early, Schreiber and Assoc.; Daniel Gengler, National Fire Sprinkler Assoc.; David Malek, Malek and Assoc.; John Mielke, Associated Builders and Contractors; Bill Sullivan, Madison Fire Department

Welcome, Review of Agenda and Previous Meeting's Progress Report : Jim Quast welcomed the council, and opened the meeting with a round of introductions. The previous meeting's progress report was reviewed and unanimously approved, as was the continuation of Chris Schoenbeck as chair and Jeff Bateman as vice-chair. The council reviewed the meeting agenda, and it was approved without changes.

Comm 5 Revisions/Building Contractor Registration

Jim Quast updated the committee on the Comm 5 code development project relating to construction contractor registration as mandated by 2009 Wisconsin Act 28. The code package includes administrative forfeitures for non-compliance, and expands the registration to other disciplines. A public hearing on the code package is scheduled for May, 5, 2010, 10:00 am, at the Thompson Commerce Building.

Wisconsin Commercial Building Code

The Comm 60-66 code development project to update the codes to keep them consistent with national construction and fire prevention standards is in progress. The public hearing is not scheduled yet, but should take place in late May or early June, 2010. The code will include a requirement for the submission of sprinkler plans for all occupancies and should have an effective date of January 1, 2011.

Proposed Forfeiture Rules

The rules for forfeitures related to working without or employing someone without the proper licenses currently apply to various classes of plumbers and those who work with POWTS, and soon will be in affect for building contractors. A draft legislative proposal to include those who work with fire sprinklers is in progress, but it probably will not get through the legislature during the current legislative session.

Credentialed Automatic Fire Sprinkler Testers

The council recommends that NICET Level II accreditation, or experience in the sprinkler trades combined with the Wisconsin exam, to become a credentialed Automatic Fire Sprinkler Tester. The council further recommends continuing education units of 12 to 24 hours per credential cycle for all fire sprinkler credentials. Commerce staff will work on a code package proposal.

Sprinkler Business Credentials

The council considered a business credential for the fire sprinkler trades, but Commerce staff stated that individual credentials are easier to track instead of tracking which employees work for which employers. The council did not make a recommendation on this issue.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be scheduled when there are forfeiture considerations for fire sprinkler-related credentials or at the chairperson's discretion. If you have any questions, contact Jim Quast, jim.quast@wisconsin.gov, 608-266-9292.